

From: [Jeff Zarrinnam](#)
To: [Carlos Rodriguez](#); [Aram Taslagyan](#)
Cc: [Carlos Rios](#); [Sunil Rajpal](#); [Shahenian, Nicole](#); [Gubler, Leron](#); [Jacques Massachi \(jmassachi@gmail.com\)](#); [harveysshield@gmail.com](#)
Subject: RE: Landscaping Concerns with Median Island on Vermont Project
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2016 7:29:37 PM

Hi Carlos

The lady was Sharyn Romano from Los Angeles Beautification Team, our landscape maintenance contractor.

We had an EHBID board meeting the next day and Sharyn mentioned the discussion she had with Carlos Rios.

The board decided to stay the course and to not make any changes to the approved plans... for fear of more delays and increased costs!

... So we are staying the course and therefore no changes.

What's going to happen with the buried manhole?

I have some questions regarding the excavation for my own knowledge in the event anyone asks me why the trees were not planted in this particular median.

Would the contractor excavate the slurry from the entire length of the median or only in the 2 sections where the 2 trees are?

How deep would they have to excavate for the trees to have a good foothold?

This type of excavation was unexpected and would have gone over and beyond the scope of the work requested of the contractor resulting in a change order.

Since we cannot risk the remaining funds as they are budgeted for the two additional medians below Santa Monica Boulevard, we cannot do the slurry excavation at this time, if ever.

Therefore, please move forward with planting only the ground cover and low shrubs for this median as you recommended.

Vaya con Dios,

Jeff Zarrinnam, C.H.A.
President & CEO

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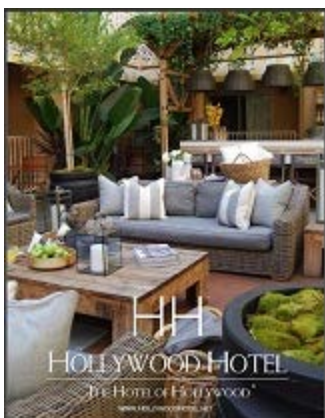
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jeff@hollywoodhotel.net

Web

www.hollywoodhotel.net



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From: Carlos Rodriguez [mailto:carlos.c.rodriguez@lacity.org]

Sent: Thursday, November 3, 2016 6:08 PM

To: Jeff Zarrinam; Aram Taslagyan

Cc: Carlos Rios; Sunil Rajpal

Subject: Landscaping Concerns with Median Island on Vermont Project

Hello Aram & Jeff,

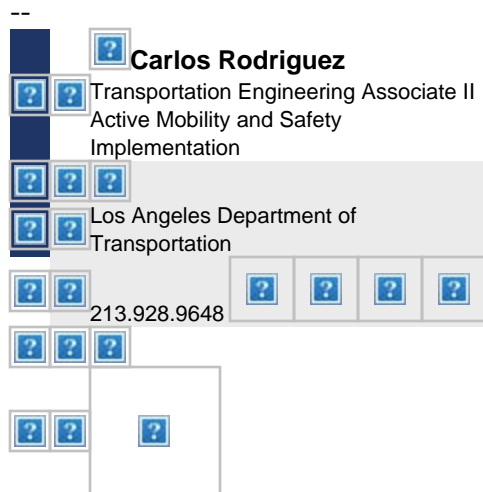
We encountered some unforeseen condition at the median island just south of the De Longpre Ave. During the excavation process the Contractor found a buried manhole and 2 feet below the concrete curb the entire width and length of the island found a consistency of low strength cement and gravel (know as slurry), which is related to an existing sewer line. We expected to find native soil after excavating the required 2 feet inside the median island for the installation of topsoil for planting of landscaping. The removal of this slurry will be a significant cost on the project of which our funding are limited on this project. Thus, this condition is not a health environment for tree growth, because trees required much more soil depth to properly establish a strong stable root growth. A condition with shallow root growth may create a condition where a strong wind will knock down the tree and create a serious liability concern for the City of LA on the roadway.

Therefore, we are currently recommending to plant no trees on the median island just south of the De Longpre Ave. However, our landscaping architects colleagues are currently looking at the design to plant only ground cover and shrubs on this median island. I would like to get your option on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns and would like to talk to me in more detail, please do not hesitate to call me.

Hello Jeff,

On another note, Carlos Rios mentioned to me that on the day of the groundbreaking ceremony he had a lady approach him regarding some concerns with the current landscaping design for the median islands. Carlos Rios believes this lady maybe part of the EHBID. Just wanted to find out if you know anything regarding this matter. If so, I would like to address these concerns now before we start the planting of the landscaping. Please advise on how we can address this potential concern.

Once again thank you both for all you support and help on this project. Have a great weekend.



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